

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 2, insert before line 1 the following new paragraph:

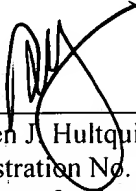
CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/396,335 filed September 15, 1999, and issued as Patent No. 6,281,207 on August 28, 2001.

REMARKS

The application has been amended at page 2 to claim the priority of parent application No. 09/396,335.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steven J. Hultquist
Registration No. 28,021
Attorney for Applicants

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/
TECHNOLOGY LAW
P.O. Box 14329
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Telephone: (919) 419-9350
Facsimile: (919) 419-9354
Attorney Ref: 4164-101 CON